

# Tom Courtenay Spies In a Murky Comedy

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Just when you think the spy-comedy craze is dead and buried at last, it reappears again from some unexpected direction. "Otley," at the Tyson No. 2 and Roth's Silver Spring Theaters, is the latest unlikely example of the breed.

Tom Courtenay plays an eightball Londoner named Gerald Arthur Otley, who bums around and gets by with the help of sympathetic landladies who share their beds with him. But the current one, like all the others, kicks him out and he spends a night at a male friend's flat.

When he wakes up, his host has been murdered. Otley is kidnaped and grilled by first one group of spies, then another. Finally he is dressed up in what the credits call a "CIA suit by Cecil Gee of

"OTLEY," a Columbia Pictures release of a Bruce Cohn Curtis production, directed by Dick Clement, screenplay by Ian La Frenais and Clement from the novel by Martin Waddell, music by Stanley Myers; in Columbia color. At the Tyson No. 2 and Roth's Silver Spring Theaters.

#### The Cast

Otley	Tom Courtenay
Imogen	Romy Schneider
Hadrian	Alan Badel
Hendrickson	James Villiers
Johnston	Leonard Rossiter
Albert	James Bolam
Lin	Fiona Lewis
Proudfoot	Freddy Jones
Lambert	Edward Hardwick
Curtis	Ronald Lacey
Nello	James Maxwell

London" and ordered by one faction to spy on the other.

It would be inaccurate to

say that the plot of "Otley" is hard to follow; it's impossible to follow. The theory behind it, apparently, is that since it's a comedy, not a thriller, it will get funnier and funnier as it gets murkier and murkier.

But surely in this kind of movie the laughs tend to be in direct, not inverse, proportion to the thrills. There are no thrills in "Otley," not even the conventional surprise twist at the end; it just comes to a stop, predictably. There are some laughs along the way but

the demand far exceeds the supply.